

From carbon neutral to net zero: the evolving global ambition

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In order to minimise the likelihood of catastrophic climate change, it is now widely accepted that deep decarbonisation is needed, with emissions targets needing to align with climate science. As more organisations recognise the need for climate action, there is rapid evolution in both ambition and the terminology used to describe it. Are you aiming to be carbon neutral, net carbon zero, carbon balanced or climate positive? Are these all the same thing and if not, which is better? Should your targets be science based (and what does that mean anyway)? Toitū Envirocare GM Technical, Dr Belinda Mathers will discuss how the global voluntary carbon market is evolving and some of the global initiatives that are developing to provide a framework for ambitious climate action. She will describe some of the key mechanisms available for target setting across a range of sectors and the role of compensation/offsetting in achieving carbon neutrality, including international developments such as the Paris rulebook, the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative and other initiatives. In a market that is experiencing a shortage of GHG emissions experts and increasing claims of greenwashing, how do we drive the changes that are needed and ensure that carbon claims are robust, clear and can be relied upon?